

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0021] on page 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Figs. 1-4 show the tie plate 10 made in accordance with the present invention that includes a base plate 12 having an upper or first surface 14 and a bottom or second surface 16 and defining a peripheral edge 17. A pair of longitudinally-extending shoulder members 18, 18' are defined on the first surface 14 of the base plate 12 and can extend a width W of the base plate 12 (shown in Figs. 2 and 4). The second surface 16 of the base plate 12 is generally flat. A recessed area 20 is defined between each shoulder member 18, 18' on the first surface 14 of the base plate 12 and is used to accommodate a railroad rail 56 therebetween (shown in Fig. 8). Also, a plurality of slots 22 having an inner surface 24 are defined on the base plate 12. A portion of the slots 22 extends transversely through the longitudinally-extending shoulder members 18, 18' from the upper surface 14 to the bottom surface 16 of the base plate 12. The slots 22 are generally adapted to receive fasteners 60 for securing the base plate 12 to a rail tie 86 (shown in Fig. 9). The base plate 12 can be a metallic core made from material such as steel. --